

From: Dennis Whittaker
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/15/02 9:20am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dennis Whittaker
34 Jewett Hill, Berkshire, NY 13736

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Attorney General John Ashcroft, Department of Justice
950 Penna. Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I am writing in support of the settlement with Microsoft. The changes it requires will restore fair competition and prevent future antitrust violations.

Microsoft has agreed to release the interfaces that make Windows work with software applications to competitors, meaning that other companies can figure out how to better write programs for Windows. Naturally, Microsoft has agreed not to retaliate against software or hardware developers who develop or promote software that take advantage of this new information. Plus, Microsoft has agreed not to enter into any agreements that force third parties to distribute any Windows technology exclusively. Clearly, these restrictions will benefit the consumers as well as the technology sector as a whole.

This settlement is in the best interests of the State of New York, The U.S., and the economy because it will stop any anticompetitive behavior before it starts. Continued litigation against Microsoft will put millions of dollars into a case that has already seen a fair and reasonable end. Let the IT industry concentrate on business as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Dennis Whittaker